

MAY 2024



Bible Study | Faith in Action

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## Prepare

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen/pencil

## Get Started

Consider what it means to be frequent in prayer. How often do you find yourself praying? Do you take time to concentrate on prayer? Is prayer the first thing that comes to mind when something good or bad happens in your life? Take some time to journal about your prayer life and what may be keeping you from being frequent in prayer.

## Study and Learn

Ephesians 6:18 is at the end of a few chapters of instructions for the church at Ephesus. Paul spent time reminding the believers who they were in Christ and what being a Christian means. They lived in a city surrounded by the pagan rituals of the worship of Artemis, a goddess of fertility. Paul knew the believers had to not only know who God is and who they were in Christ, but they also needed to walk with the Lord closely in order to interact with the culture around them and be a light for the gospel without falling into sin. They would need proper tools to fight against the temptations surrounding them.

Paul ended this letter with what we call the armor of God. This is simply a metaphorical reminder for how our faith guards us against sin. I'm sure we have all heard plenty of sermons detailing the parts of the armor and what they mean. Paul ended this metaphor with instruction on prayer: to pray at all times with the Spirit, to stay alert in prayer, and to intercede for other believers. He then implored the believers to pray for him, which gave them a practical way to live out his instructions on praying for fellow believers. He asked that they would pray God's words would come out of his mouth as he shared the gospel and that he would be bold to speak the words God gave him.

### • Read Ephesians 6:18.

When you read this verse, knowing it comes directly after the description of the armor of God, how does it impact your view of prayer? This encouragement is part of Paul's final words to the believers in Ephesus. How does the placement of this verse emphasize its importance?

While prayer itself is not listed as a piece of the armor of God, it is significant here in the passage. Prayer enables us to be alert as we are strong in the Lord and take our stand against the devil's schemes (vv. 10–11). It is the first line of defense as we pray for pastors, teachers, ministry leaders, and missionaries as they labor for the gospel—some in dangerous situations.

## Apply

As you pray, consider how you can use the prompts Paul gave the believers in Ephesus. Praying Scripture back to God is a great way to pray in the Spirit and truth. It can also keep God and His attributes and promises the central focus of your prayers. Use Paul's prayer prompts for the believers in Ephesus to pray for your pastor and other ministry leaders and teachers, as well as for missionaries around the world.

## Follow Up

Think about your prayer life. Would you consider prayer an essential part of your relationship with God? Journal the following prompt: How does prayer help me better wield the armor of God?

Prayer is an essential part of our relationship with God. We cannot move forward in the battle of growing the kingdom of God without a connection to the army's Commander. How can you move forward in growing deeper intimacy with the Lord in your prayer life?

## Commit to Memory

Verse: **Ephesians 6:18**

Challenge: **Ephesians 6:10–18**

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**MILLY HOLDER** is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with her husband and dog. She serves her local church in women's ministry and missionary care.

# Faith in Action | Make a Difference in Someone's Life

By Terri Staines

For more than 25 years, WorldCrafts has worked to develop viable employment for men and women in poverty, enabling them to receive an income with dignity and discover the hope of eternal life. To accomplish its vision, WorldCrafts collaborates with local partners around the world to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses that offer individuals opportunities to use their skills or learn a skill while earning an income.

WorldCrafts' first partnership was with Thai Country Trim, an artisan group that employs women at risk of abuse and exploitation in Bangkla, Thailand. It has grown to partner with numerous other artisan groups that sell fine handcrafted items.

There are many ways to support the work of WorldCrafts; consider some of these listed here.

## Share about WorldCrafts with Others

- Create a display: Educate others about the work of WorldCrafts by displaying products and information about the ministry at an event at your church. Find tips and order resources by visiting [WorldCrafts.org/display](https://WorldCrafts.org/display).
- Host a virtual market: Share WorldCrafts products for sale with friends and family no matter their location. For tips

on how to organize a virtual market, visit [WorldCrafts.org/virtualmarket](https://WorldCrafts.org/virtualmarket).

- Host an in-person market: Host an event at your church or home to sell current products from WorldCrafts artisan groups and educate attendees about the purpose and ministry of WorldCrafts. Visit [WorldCrafts.org/market](https://WorldCrafts.org/market) for helpful resources.
- Support Freedom: Lend your support to artisan groups working to protect and free at-risk women from the dangers of human trafficking and sexual exploitation by getting involved in WorldCrafts' Support Freedom Campaign. Visit [WorldCrafts.org/support-freedom-campaign](https://WorldCrafts.org/support-freedom-campaign) to learn how you can pray, mobilize others to act, and purchase items from Support Freedom groups.

## Pray

Above all, pray artisans' hearts would be opened to hear the offer of eternal hope. Pray artisans would be encouraged by the support of churches and individuals. Pray the Lord would guide artisans as they work and that they would remain healthy. To pray for each artisan group by name, download a monthly prayer guide at [WorldCrafts.org/pray](https://WorldCrafts.org/pray).

**TERRI STAINES** writes from Ray City, Georgia. She has purchased several high-quality jewelry pieces from Starfish Project, a WorldCrafts artisan group.